



Arlington Council on Aging

Minutes

Date: Thursday January 20, 2022 Time: 6:00 pm

Present: Michael Quinn, Kristine Shah, Laura Liscio, Sheila Connerney, Anne Brown, Nancy Cox, Mary Hung

Associate members: Bob Tosi Jr., Karen Nichols, Ann Fitzgerald, Rick Fentin, Mara Klein-Collins

Minuteman Board member: Ann Bruhn

Location: This meeting was conducted virtually via Zoom, following the rules set forth by the Governor's Executive Order on Remote Participation. These meetings are open to the public and all are welcome. Please call 781-316-3401 or e-mail KShah@town.arlington.ma.us for the link to join the virtual meeting which can be accessed by computer with internet access or by telephone for audio access only.

Kristine Shah, Executive Director

Michael Quinn, Chair

Sheila Connerney, Secretary

The Council's primary responsibilities are to design, promote, and implement programs and services to address the needs of the community's elder population, and to coordinate existing services in the community.

1. Call to order by Michael Quinn at 6:03pm
2. Citizen's Open Forum -- NA
3. Minutes of the December 2021 meeting for approval – Motion to approve by Nancy Cox, seconded by Anne Brown
4. Executive Director's Report – See below. Comments regarding Age Friendly plan; consider ambassadors for Age Friendly Arlington; concern for rolling out the plan while staff is stressed with Covid; using this as a political issue in town elections; could Caitlyn Coyle present to the Board?
5. Report of the Chair – Plan to engage with BOS regarding Age Friendly updates.
6. Minuteman Senior Services Report – See attached.
7. ASA Liaison Report – None.
8. Old Business – None.
9. New Business
 - a. Vote: Sevoyan Personal Needs Funds Request – Kristine proposed a \$25,000 transfer from the Charles Sevoyan Charitable Trust (\$10,000 for Dental and \$15,000 for Personal Needs). After a discussion around history of the trust balance and history of transfers made, Nancy Cox moved to approve, Anne Brown seconded.

- b. Elderly and Disabled Tax Relief- new committee of residents to be appointed for March application decisions.

10. Other Community Announcements

- a. LHMC and MAH Community Listening Sessions

11. Adjourn – 7:16pm Anne Brown moved to adjourn. Sheila Connerney seconded.

Next meeting: February 17, 2022

Executive Director's Report

Kristine Shah

I. Center Renovation

- a. As of January 14, 2022, the plan is that construction will be substantially completed by the first week of February. Red Thread is scheduled to install furniture Feb 2-7. COA is planning to move in to new offices Feb 8-9. As of our move, all construction is expected to be completed with the exception of the kitchen. Exterior and Interior door installation may take place through the month of February.
- b. My Senior Center is scheduled to install new terminals in late February. Recorded tour with ACMi is scheduled to be recorded the third week of February.
- c. Tour for Board members - discussion

II. COA Services and Program Update

- a. Due to the current COVID-19 surge, the COA moved to all virtual programming for the month of January. We added and have been promoting our virtual programs during this time and have seen a large increase in attendance at virtual programming since January.
- b. Due to the current COVID-19 surge, we are only completing medical and highly necessary transportation requests in order to protect our drivers and riders.
- c. 50 isolated seniors received Warm Wishes holiday gift bags in the month of December. Deliveries were made by 35 volunteers. Grocery store gift cards were sponsored by two agents at Coldwell Banker. Maxima collected gift items for each bag, as well.
- d. Fuel assistance requests have been extremely active. Applications have been completed with the assistance of staff member Jeety Gandhi, who has been meeting residents outdoors so they can complete the process.
- e. LINKS snow shoveling is underway this winter, as is our new Sand/Salt Delivery Program. This new program is an Eagle Scout project and has been very well received.
- f. AARP volunteers will assist residents with their taxes again this year in person; appointments will be Fridays between Feb 4 and April 15. Many residents have called for appointments and Pat B. has done a wonderful job adapting to the ever evolving pandemic changes as we aim to assist as many individuals with tax preparation as possible.

- III. Transportation
 - a. We have recently begun working with a new local company, Alternative Transportation Company. They have been providing chair car service for us since December and will begin providing more transportation to our older adults over the coming months, especially for Sanborn clients.
- IV. The following grant applications have been submitted:
 - a. \$15,000 Transportation Grant from Lahey
 - b. \$10,000 Hot Spot grant from Mount Auburn
 - c. \$20,000 Adult Day Health Scholarships Grant from CDBG
 - d. \$31,540 Transportation Program Grant from CDBG
 - e. \$52,922 Volunteer Coordinator Grant from CDBG
- V. Age Friendly/Dementia Friendly
 - a. Discussion of Age/Dementia Friendly Action Plan!
 - b. Next steps

Link to COA newsletter: <https://www.arlingtonma.gov/departments/health-human-services/council-on-aging/senior-newsletter>